

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 2003-35-W/S - ORDER NO. 2003-144

MARCH 17, 2003

IN RE:	Application of AAA Utilities, Inc. for	)	ORDER
	Approval of the Transfer of the Mallard Bay	)	GRANTING
	Water System (#3250059) to the Gilbert-	)	TRANSFER
	Summit Water District.	)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) by way of an Application filed by AAA Utilities, Inc. (AAA) on February 3, 2003, for approval of the transfer of water service from AAA to the Gilbert-Summit Rural Water District (Gilbert-Summit).

In its Application requesting transfer of the water service to the Mallard Bay subdivision to Gilbert-Summit, AAA asserts that the majority of homeowners in Mallard Bay have requested this transfer. In support of this position, AAA filed with the Commission a letter from Gilbert-Summit to the President of the Mallard Bay Homeowners Association in which Gilbert Summit maintained that it had received payment of all water tap fees, security deposits, and administration fees from all of the residents of Mallard Bay. AAA additionally filed with the Commission a petition allegedly signed by all the residents of Mallard Bay approving the transfer of their water service from AAA to Gilbert-Summit. AAA currently charges residents of Mallard Bay \$21.90 per month for up to 6,000 gallons of water. Gilbert-Summit's charges for the same amount of water per household will cost residents of Mallard Bay \$30.00, resulting

in an estimated increase of \$8.10 per household in monthly charges. Residents of Mallard Bay were provided with Gilbert-Summit's residential rates prior to their agreement to receive service from Gilbert-Summit.

Notice of the proposed transfer of service was provided by the Commission Staff to the S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. Actual notice of the proposed transfer was also provided to the affected customers as evidenced by a petition submitted by the Applicant signed by all residents of Mallard Bay. Additionally, Gilbert-Summit represented to the Commission that all of the affected customers had paid all requisite tap fees and deposits to allow for the immediate transfer of water service from AAA to Gilbert-Summit upon approval of this Application by this Commission. No comments or requests for intervention were received by the Commission in this matter. Based on these facts and in the interests of expediting the requested transfer, which we find to be in the public interest, under R. 103-701(3) we waive the requirement of a formal hearing in this matter under R. 103-704.

The information provided to the Commission Staff reveals that Gilbert-Summit, AAA, and the residents of Mallard Bay all support the approval of the agreements for transfer of water service in Mallard Bay to Gilbert-Summit. Both AAA and Gilbert-Summit assert that the approval of the transfer of service requested in AAA's application will best serve the public interest and enable the residents of Mallard Bay to receive reliable and economical water services. Both Gilbert-Summit and the residents of Mallard Bay support AAA in requesting the Commission to approve the transfer of operations in the instant docket.

We have examined the record in this case and agree that the proposed transfer of water service from AAA to Gilbert-Summit in Mallard Bay is in the public interest and should be approved. The record clearly states that the applicant AAA, as the current service provider, believes that the approval of transfer of service to Gilbert-Summit will best serve the public interest and enable the customers of the systems to receive reliable and economical water service. We agree with this assertion. Gilbert-Summit will serve the customers of AAA in the Mallard Bay subdivision under Gilbert-Summit's current and existing rate schedules. The proposed transfer of service is therefore approved as filed.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

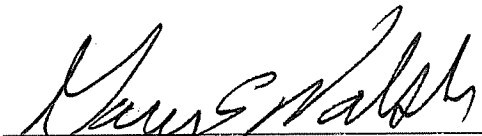
BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



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Mignon L. Clyburn, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
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Gary E. Walsh, Executive Director

(SEAL)